

# K-9 Competition



MA1 Shaune Murphy receives the 3rd place trophy in the Explosives category. Murphy and Military Working Dog Breston finished in the top five of the 14th Annual Hawaiian Islands Police K-9 Competition Aug. 1-5 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. See the chart at the bottom left of this page for a full list of top finishers.



Honolulu Police Department K-9 Officer John Hall and Channel 8 cameraman Paul Nickel watch as reporter Brooks Baehr conducts his closing standup for the late news. Baehr used Military Working Dog Rex as an example that "crime does not pay." Rex tested his aggression skills by biting the arm of the reporter, which was securely padded with a protective overcoat used by decoys during training.



(Above) Military Working Dog Loeke attacks the 'padded' arm of decoy MA1 Shaune Murphy in a test of the dog's aggression skills.



(Right) (left to right) Capt. Kevin Metcalfe - Kennel Master from Honolulu Intl. Airport's Explosives Detection Unit, Army Staff Sgt. Chad Aldridge - Schofield Barracks Kennel Master and Air Force Tech Sgt. Gayenell Shirley - Hickam AFB Kennel Master judge the dogs during the fourth day of the competition.

## Pearl Harbor hosts 14th Annual Hawaiian Islands Police K-9 Competition

By Agnes Tauyan and JO3 Erin Carlson  
*NAVY REGION HAWAII*

The Navy hosted the 14th Annual Police Dog Competition at Naval Station Pearl Harbor Aug. 1-5. The five-day competition tested the abilities of 43 working dog teams from around Oahu in the areas of aggression, basic obedience, drug and explosives sniffing and scouting. The event wrapped up Saturday night at 6 p.m. with an awards ceremony.

"We have first, second, third, and fourth place in each one of these different events, then we have a 'Top Dog,' which is a dog that overall looks the best in all the events," said Kennel Master, Master at Arms Chief Select Chris Ray of Naval Station. Then we have a Top Kennel, which is the unit that had the most dogs finish the highest in each event."

On Aug. 4 and 5, officials opened the competition to the public. During those final two days, visitors had a unique opportunity to observe Hawaii's most highly trained canines compete in the areas of aggression and basic obedience. Six judges from a wide array of working dog units on Oahu were responsible for the scoring during the events.

"They're looking for how much control the handler has over the dog - how well the dog will listen to him," said Ray. "Like when you see the dog going after the person, they holler 'out' and the dog's supposed to come off. Some will wait until the dog gets right up on the person. Then when they holler 'out'. The dog will shut its mouth - not bite the decoy - may bump into him, but not bite him," added Ray.

Competing in this year's events were dog teams from Schofield Barracks, Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hickam Air Force

Base, the Honolulu International Airport Explosive K-9 Unit, the State Department of Public Safety Sheriff's Department, and the Honolulu Police Department.

According to MAC (sel) Ray, the competition was started in 1980 by a group of handlers from Naval Station Pearl Harbor to see which group had the best dog. From that, the competition evolved into what is now known as the Hawaiian Islands Police K-9 Competition.

On the first two days of the competition, dogs were tested on how well they could find hidden drugs and explosives and how well they worked as a team.

On day three, the dogs tested their skills on scouting. "We have a 'suspect' in an area, and we send the dogs in to see which ones could find them," said Ray. "They're all graded on how well they work as a team and how the dog responds to the suspect," he added.

Competing for Naval Station Pearl Harbor were Master at Arms 1st Class (MA1) Mitchell Young with Military Working Dog (MWD) Fisco, MA1 Eric Collins with MWD Loeke, and MA1 Shaune Murphey with MWD Breston, who received third place in the explosives category.

Although only one Navy dog placed in the top three during the competition, it was a Navy dog who stood in the limelight. On the fourth day of competition, a local television crew from Channel 8 featured MWD Rex in a story aired on their late newscast at 10 p.m.

While reporter Brooks Baehr conducted his closing standup, Rex tested his aggression skills by biting the arm of the reporter, which was securely padded with a protective overcoat used by decoys during training. Reporter Baehr left unscathed, and with a lesson he passed on to his audience that evening - "crime does not pay!"

### Top Finishers

#### DRUGS

- 1st) Cpl. Shawn Gibbons & MWD Amber - USMC
- 2nd) SrA Tara Corse & MWD Nero - USAF
- 3rd) Frank Lacaden & MWD Russel - SHERRIF
- 4th) Dudley Munar & MWD Vaughn - HPD

#### EXPLOSIVES

- 1st) SSgt. McGowan & MWD Laika - USAF
- 2nd) Dean Suzuki & MWD Tiko - HPD
- 3rd) MA1 Shaune Murphy & MWD Breston - USN
- 4th) Mark Morris Sr & MWD Bronek - FAA

#### SCOUTING

- 1st) SrA Tara Corse & MWD Nero - USAF
- 2nd) Eddie Higa & MWD Carlos - HPD
- 3rd) Elroy Paiki & MWD Shadow - HPD
- 4th) Frank Lacaden & MWD Russel - SHERRIF

#### AGGRESSION

- 1st) SSgt. Michael Jewell & MWD Ogar - USAF
- 2nd) SrA Tara Corse & MWD Nero - USAF
- 3rd) Cpl. Shawn Gibbons & MWD Amber - USMC
- 4th) LCpl. James Cushman & MWD Silva - USMC

#### OBEDIENCE

- 1st) SSgt. Robert Brown & MWD Barry - USAF
- 2nd) Mark Morris Sr & MWD Bronek - FAA
- 3rd) LCpl. James Cushman & MWD Silva - USMC
- 4th) Spc. Kent Spath & MWD Alan - USA

TOP DOG  
SrA Tara Corse,  
USAF

TOP KENNEL  
Hickam Air  
Force Base  
Kennel Master,  
TSgt. Gayenell  
Shirley

Photos by JOC(sel) Gerard Sekerak